

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07306 131548Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W
-----041613 140240Z /70

R 131503Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8912
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI, SHUM
SUBJECT: CLUB 19 MEETING IN PORT HARCOURT

REF: LAGOS 7183

1. ACCORDING TO A JUNE 13 ARTICLE IN PUNCH, CLUB 19 POLITICIANS MET IN PORT HARCOURT LAST WEEKEND IN PREPARATION FOR THE LIFTING OF THE BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA. PUNCH REPORTS THAT 800 PEOPLE FROM BENDEL, RIVERS, CROSS RIVER, IMO AND ANAMBRA STATES ATTENDED THE MEETING. AMONG POLITICIANS REPORTEDLY AT THE MEETING WERE C.C. ONOH FROM ANAMBRA, CHIEF DENIS OSADEBAY OF BENDEL, GODWIN GRAHAM-DOUGLAS FROM RIVERS, M.T. MBU FROM CORSS RIVER, AND CHIEF ONITIRI AND CHIEF AKINBOBOLA FROM THE WEST.

2. PUNCH REPORTS THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF FORMER PRESIDENT UNAMDI AZIKIWE ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING AND SPECULATES THAT, IF AZIKIWE DECIDES TO RETURN TO POLITICS, HE COULD WELL BE THE CLUB'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1979. PUNCH NOTES THAT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, CLUB 19
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OPERATES WITH A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP UNDER SOLOMON D. LAR OF PLATEAU AND CHIEF AKINTOSILE AND CHIEF TOYE COKER FROM THE WEST.

3. COMMENT: IF AZIKIWE WERE WILLING TO RUN IN '79 UNDER THE CLUB 19 BANNER, IT WOULD SOLVE THE MAJOR PROBLEM THAT THE CLUB HAS OF FINDING A WIDELY ACCEPTED

POLITICAL LEADER TO MAKE THE CLUB'S TRANSITION FROM
THE PATTERN OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP WHICH WAS USED IN
THE CA. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD NOT DO TOO MUCH
FOR THE CLUB'S CAREFULLY CULTIVATED "NEW POLITICS" IMAGE.
END COMMENT.

WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, PORTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS07306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0783
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780666/aaaacepe.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 555e498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 7183
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2376114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLUB 19 MEETING IN PORT HARCOURT
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, SHUM, NI, CLUB 19
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/555e498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014